

CHAPTER FIVE

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

With the release of Snake Mountain by Super7 in 2020, Masters of the Universe Classics came to a quiet end after 12 amazing years. But if Evil-Lyn were to look into her crystal ball to see what the future of MOTUC would have looked like if it would have been allowed to continue, what might she have seen? Well, thanks to some reliable insider information from former Mattel brand manager Scott Neitlich and others, the following pages give an overview of some of the characters, beasts, vehicles, etc., that were under consideration for the brand before the plug was finally pulled. Alas, what might have been...

THE 2016 LINEUP Before Mattel ultimately scaled back the number of releases in Masters of the Universe Classics in 2016, they had another robust full year of figures scheduled, with plans to re-brand the line as “Masters of the Universe Chronicles” released in all-new packaging. Among their plans were releases of Lord Masque, Despara, General Sundar, Vultak, Darius, Lodar, Crita, Horde Wraith, Anti-Eternia He-Man (as a “chase” figure), Night Stalker, Stridor, Tuskador, and the Roton with Skelcon, all of which were ultimately released by either Mattel in 2016 or later by Super7. But their plans also included Lady Slither (left), along with all of the following:



(L-R): Ra-Jar, Skeletor, Songster (which would have been the sub-exclusive figure), Major Header, Hans Hammer-Holder, Sagitar (as the oversized Holiday figure), and a Prince Keldor/Prince Randor 2-pack exclusive to San Diego Comic Con in 2016. Mattel also had plans for the Goddess 2.0 (to correct the “exploding hip” issue) as an SDCC/Power-Con exclusive figure.



CLUB GRAYSKULL In addition to the regular subscription detailed above, Mattel had plans for a mini-sub made up almost exclusively of re-releases of highly-demanded characters done in their Filmation cartoon designs. Dubbed “Club Grayskull,” this add-on subscription would have included He-Man, Skeletor, Stratos, Mer-Man, Beast Man, and a subscription-exclusive Sorceress, all of which were ultimately released by either Mattel in 2016 or later by Super7. But Mattel’s line-up also included Cringer, the only figure in Mattel’s plans that was never released.

ON THE ROAD MAP Along with the aforementioned 2016 line-up, the following releases were also seen on Mattel's road map for eventual inclusion in Masters of the Universe Classics.

200X MOTU CARTOON SERIES AND TOYLINE



(L-R): Adzar the Giant, Andreenids (2-pack), Baddirah, Belzar the Giant, Caligars (2-pack), Chadzar the Giant, Qadians (2-pack), Tuvar, and Queen Andreeno.

Not pictured (but also planned) were the 200x designs of He-Man, King Randor, Prince Adam, Man-At-Arms (in underwater armor), Queen Marlena, the Sorceress, and Skeletor, along with MOTUC versions of the 200x figures Jungle Attack He-Man, Samurai He-Man, Samurai Skeletor, Disco Skeletor, and Smash Blade He-Man.

FILMATION CARTOON

Filmation cartoon characters that Mattel had eyed for inclusion in MOTUC included Melaktha, Aremesh, Colonel Blast, King Miro, Kol Darr, Manticoore, and Slavemaster, as well as a new version of Cringer (not pictured).



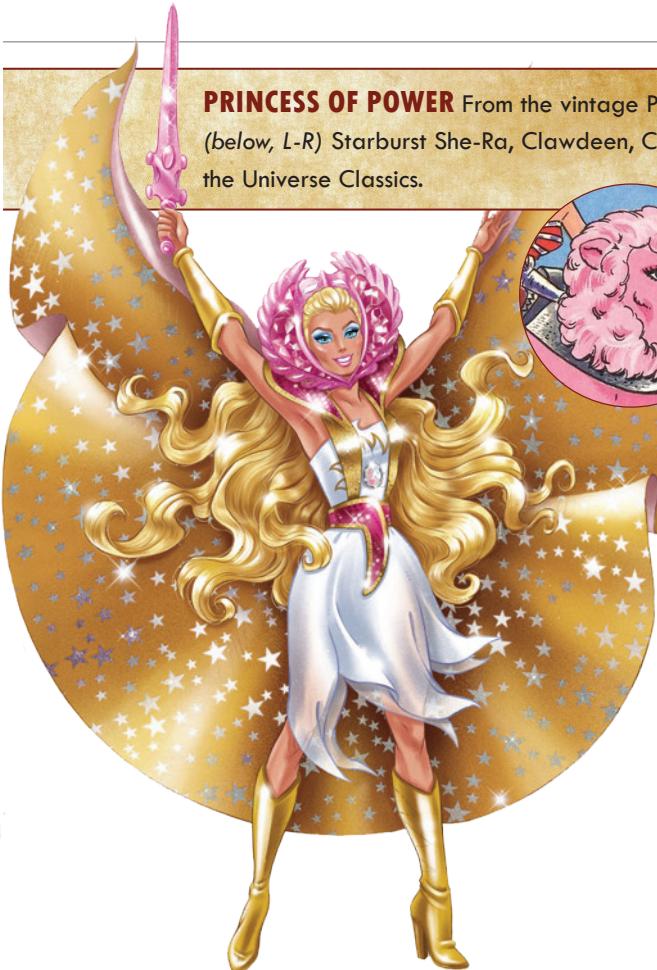
NEW ADVENTURES OF HE-MAN

From The New Adventures of He-Man cartoon and subsequent 1990 "He-Man" toyline, Mattel had planned the following characters

for MOTUC: Butthead (left), Artilla, Hoove, Kayo, Lizorr, Nocturna, Spinwit, Staghorn, and Vizar, as well as Space Mutant Figure Stands and Galactic Protector Figure Stands (not pictured).



PRINCESS OF POWER From the vintage Princess of Power toyline, Mattel had planned to eventually include (below, L-R) Starburst She-Ra, Clawdeen, Crystal Sun Dancer, Scratchin' Sound Catra, and Silver Storm in Masters of the Universe Classics.



COMIC AND MAGAZINE CHARACTERS

Comic book and magazine-based characters that Mattel had considered for inclusion in MOTUC included Scrolllos (right), and (below, L-R) Consul Ari, an Ilkort Warrior, Teela's Unicorn, Illumina, and the Great Black Wizard, as well as (not pictured) the comic designs of Ram Man and Tri-Klops.



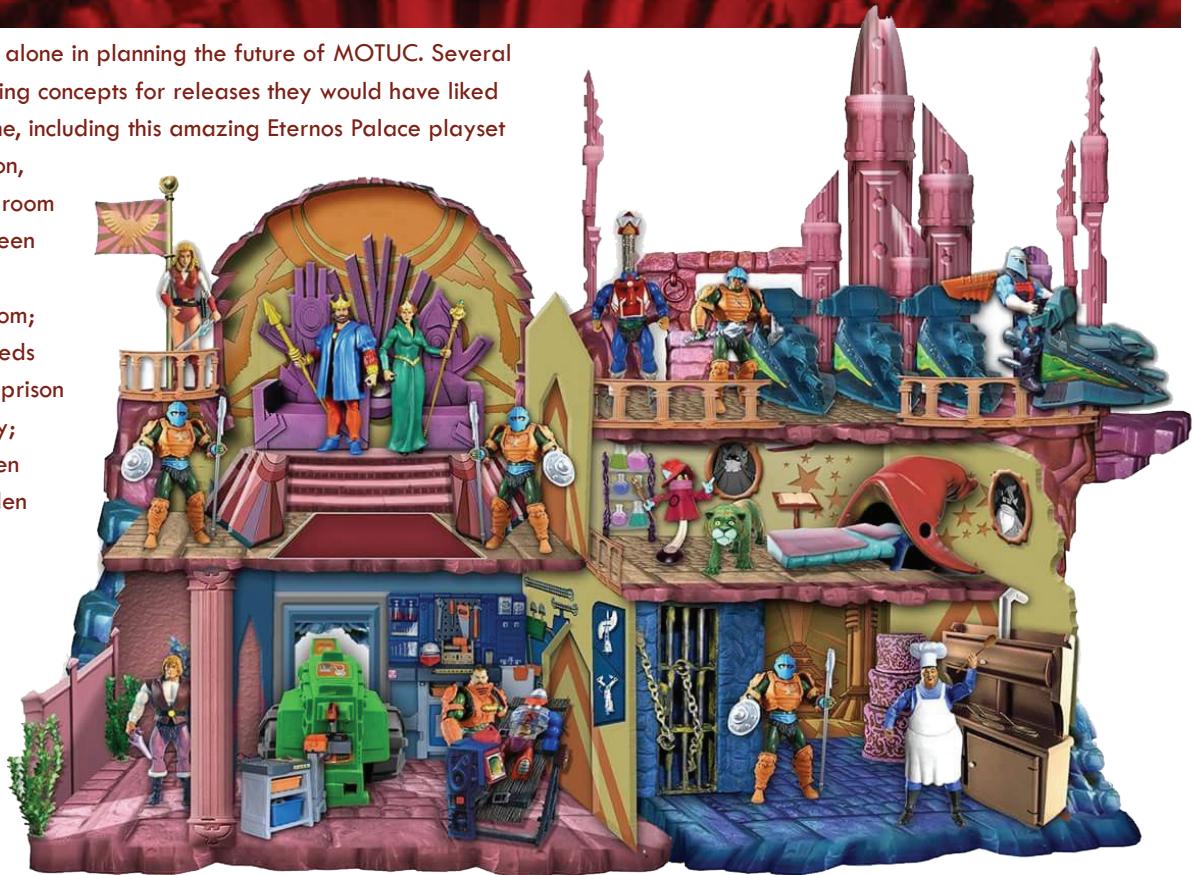
START YOUR ENGINES Figures weren't the only things slated for the future of MOTUC that were never made. Several vintage vehicles and beasts were also on the MOTUC road map, including the Tyrantisaurus Rex, Turbodactyl, Attak Trak, Bionatops, and the Land Shark.



AND THE REST Other items under consideration for MOTUC included: Catra's Cat Warriors • Elders of Eternia 3-pack • Evil Females with Rooted Hair (a possible minisub) • the Girls of MOTU (another possible mini-sub) • Horde Armor He-Man and She-Ra • Horde Death Squad • Horde Lord • Horde Supreme • a Magic Blast Pack • Outcast Keldor • Revenge Squad Leader • Sharella • Skeleton Warriors (2-pack) • Snake Warrior Captain (a repainted Snake Man) • Stingrad • Crash-Landing Captain Glenn • Cloak and Dagger Evil-Lyn • the Slime Pit.

ETERNOS PALACE

Of course, Mattel wasn't alone in planning the future of MOTUC. Several fans came up with amazing concepts for releases they would have liked to have seen in the toyline, including this amazing Eternos Palace playset design by Stuart Cameron, which featured a throne room for King Randor and Queen Marlena; Man-At-Arms' workshop; Orko's bedroom; landing areas for Sky Sleds and the Wind Raider; a prison cell; an exterior walkway; an elevator; and a kitchen complete with a Chef Allen figure.



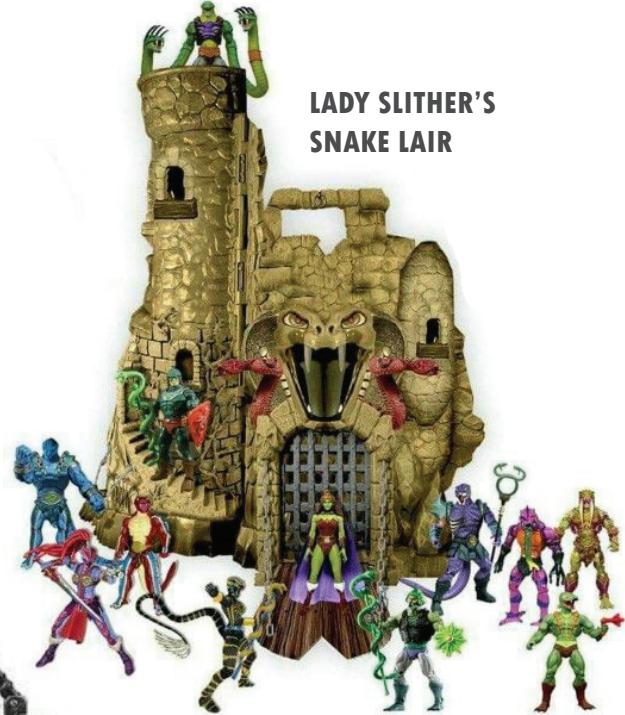
WHISPERING WOODS



THE FRIGHT ZONE

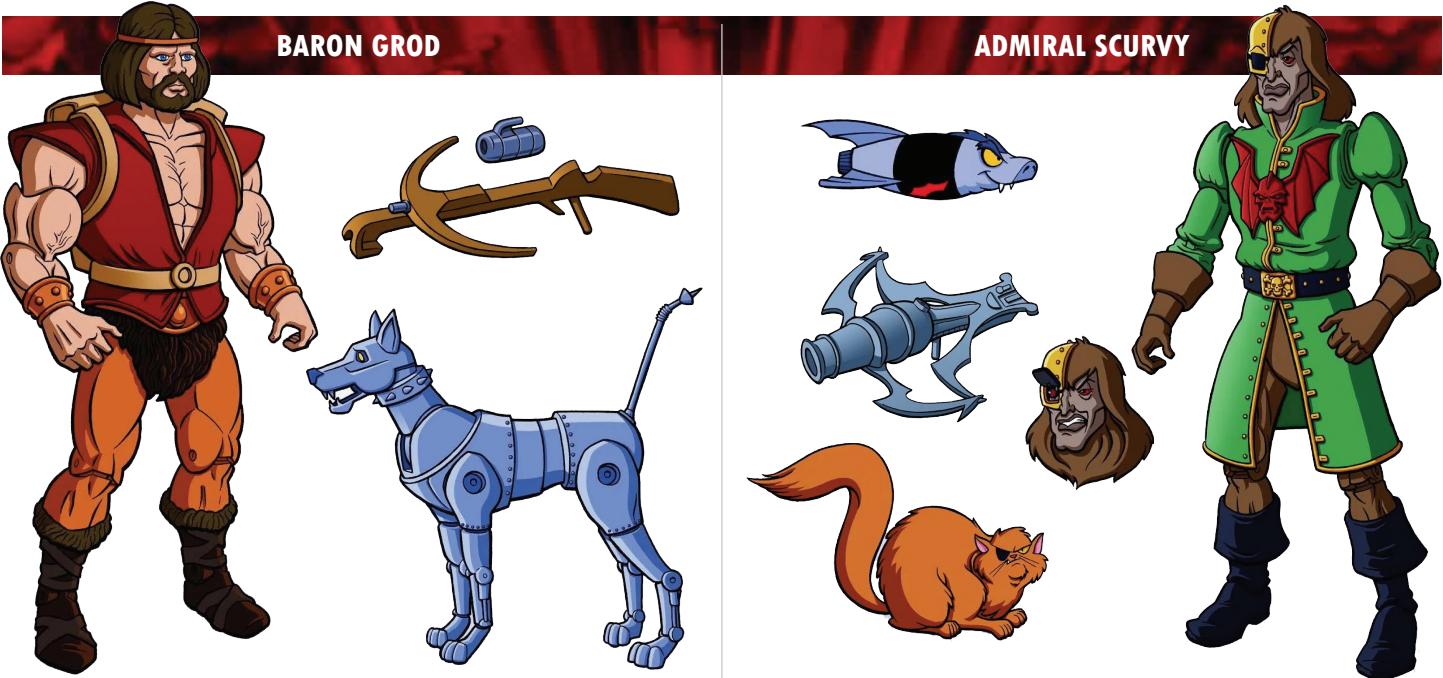


LADY SLITHER'S SNAKE LAIR



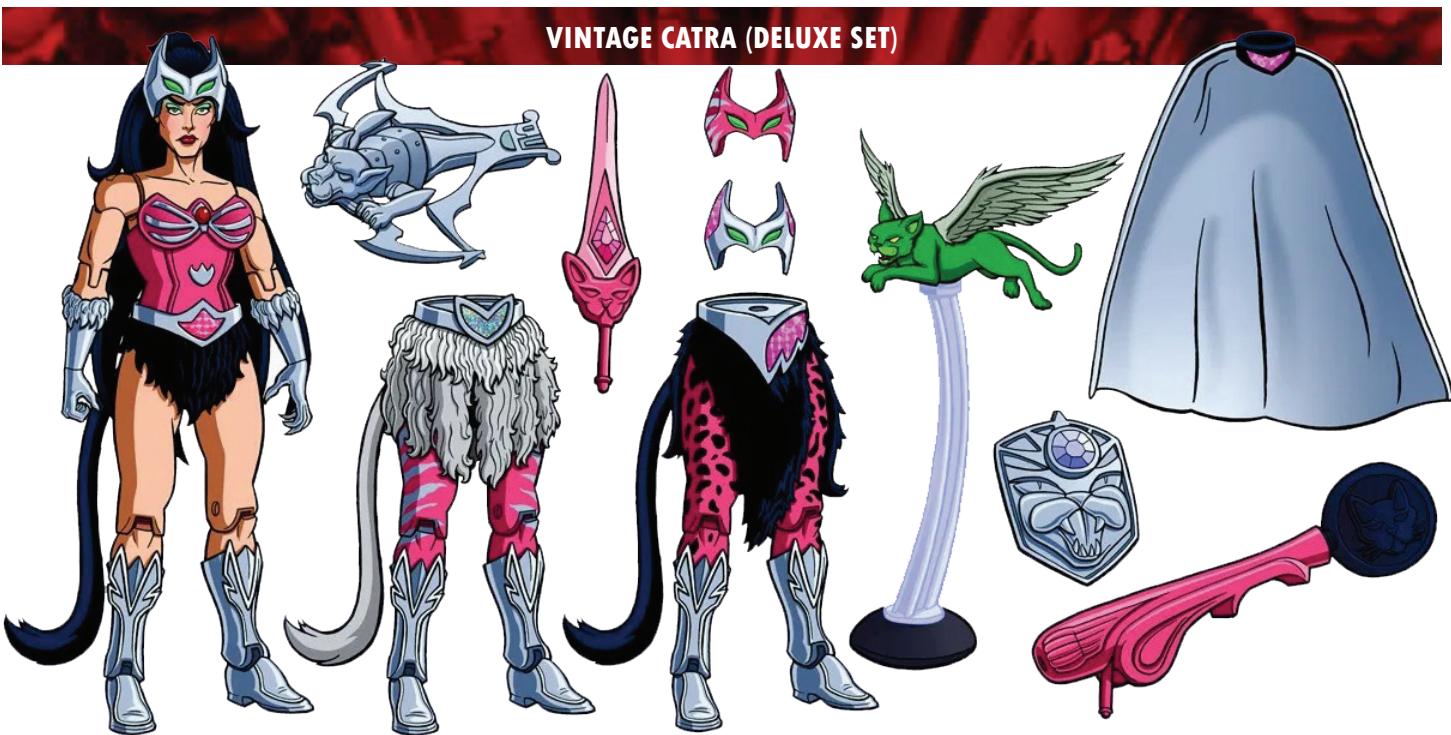
Other fan-designed MOTUC playsets included the Whispering Woods (also by Stuart Cameron), Lady Slither's Lair, and the Fright Zone.

Beginning in 2016, MOTUC fan Brian Charles Rooney posted a series of articles on The Fwoosh proposing a line-up of characters deserving of consideration for future release in Masters of the Universe Classics. Combined with amazing figure artwork by artist Tom Bryski, Rooney's articles made a compelling argument for the inclusion of many characters that had been, at the time, ignored in the line. Some of these characters, like Karg, Wrap Trap, and Granita, eventually achieved plastic immortality, but far too many others, as seen on these next few pages, were simply never meant to be.



A character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon, Baron Grod is shown here with an energy crossbow, net cannon attachment, and his pet Growler.

Admiral Scurvy, a character from the Filmation POP cartoon, is shown here with Imp (as a rocket), crossbow, alternate head, and Squall.



This "deluxe set" would have combined elements of three different Catra figures from the vintage POP toyline: silver mask, Horde crossbow, cat sword, Shower Power mask, Scratchin' Sound mask, Catbird with stand, Shower Power cape, Scratchin' Sound swappable legs, Shower Power swappable legs, cat shield, and water bazooka.

CHEF ALLEN



With rolling pin, spoon, bowl, Orko's birthday cake, and cookbook, Chef Allen was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon series.

DAMON



Damon, a character from the 1982 3-issue DC Comics Masters of the Universe mini-series, is shown here with alternate demon head, spiked scepter, and Talismans of the Sea, Sky, and Cosmos.

DRAGOON



With snap-in fire-blast effect, a canister of drained Trollan magic, and a Trollan magic pyramid, Dragoon was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon series.

ENCHANTRESS & DRUDE



The Enchantress and Drude, characters from the Filmation MOTU cartoon series, are shown here with a magical blast effect and crystal ball with stand.

CRIMSON FURY, COUNT SNEER, & GRITSTONE (3-PACK)

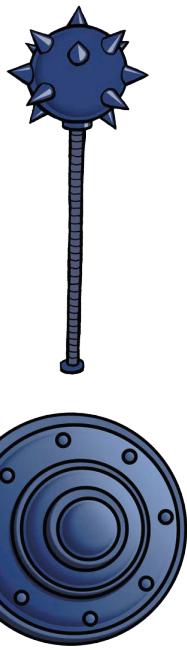


With accessories that included energy shackles, Talon, bird stand, Horde Crossbow, scimitar, Horde armband, and a whirlwind blast effect, Crimson Fury, Count Sneer, and Gritstone were all characters from the UK Princess of Power Comic Magazines (1987).



A character from the Masters of the Universe newspaper strips, Duke Tiberon is shown with rapier, scepter, writing quill, Royal Tome of King Randor, and the comic strip version of the staff of King Hssss.

With Horde crossbow, Horde armband, He-Man head, Skeletor head, Prince Highcliff head, King Randor head, and Imp (as a candle), False Face was a character from the Filmation POP cartoon.

GARN

A character from the Mattel Masters of the Universe mini-comic "Slave City," Garn is shown here with mace and shield.

GRAY

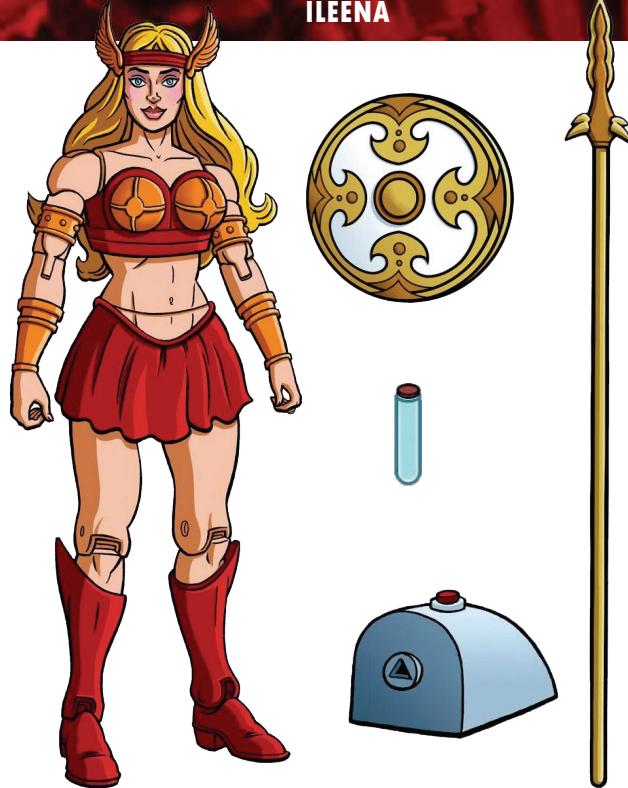
With cosmic sword and the concept version of He-Ro's magic staff, Gray was the secret identity of He-Ro, as seen on the card art for the unreleased vintage Eldor figure.

HOWLER

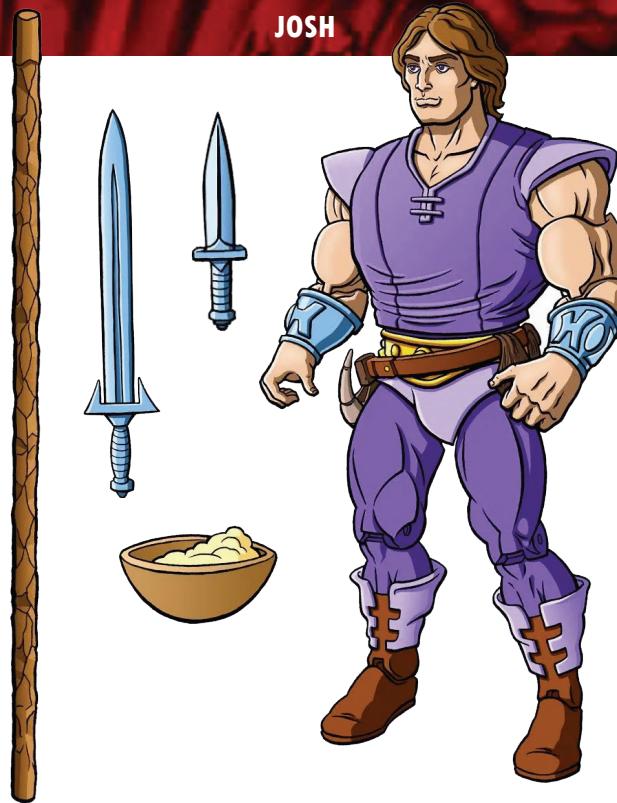
A character from the Masters of the Universe Golden Super Adventure Book "Secret of the Dragon's Egg," Howler is shown with the iron paw war club, dragon egg, dragon hatchling, spy bat with stand, and dragon box.

HUNGA

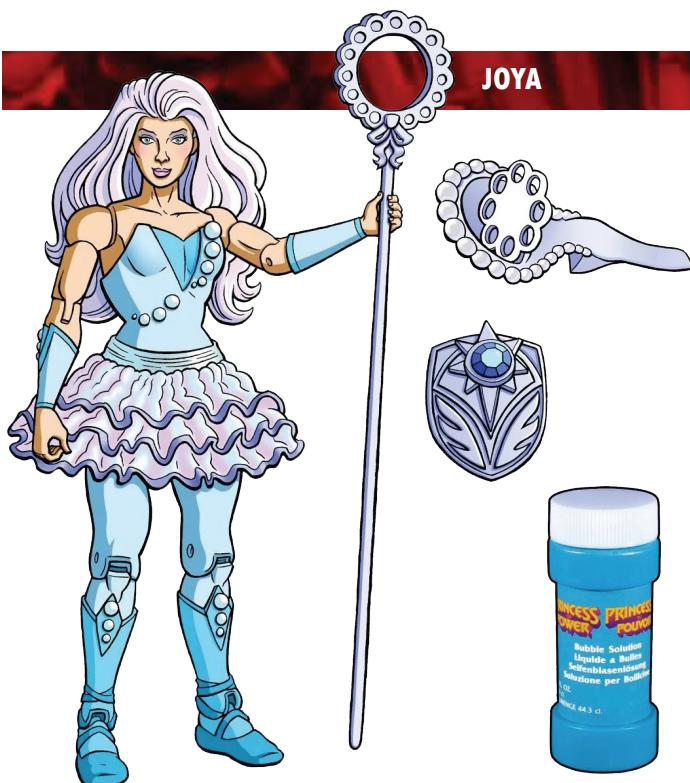
With Force Captain Laser Cannon, alternate "Harpy" head (for army-building), and a magic scepter, Hunga was a character from the Filmation POP cartoon.

ILEENA

With Teela's concept shield, transmutator, Jarvan's potion, and Teela's concept spear, Ileena was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon.

JOSH

A character from the POP mini-comic "Across the Crystal Light Barrier," Josh is pictured with quarterstaff, sword, dagger, and bowl of potato salad.

JOYA

Shown with staff, bubble blaster, shield, and bubble solution, Joya was an unproduced figure from the vintage POP toyline.

KAYO

A character from the 1990 "He-Man" toyline, Kayo is pictured here with an energy bazooka, alternate helmeted head, shoulder space armor, and shield.

KEX QUEEN



KING MIRO



With alternate masked head, whip, royal staff, and royal eggs with stone nest, the Kex Queen was a character from the MOTU mini-comic "He-Man and the Insect People."

With Marzo's staff, "Old Man" Marzo figure, and Royal Sword of King Miro, this version of King Miro is based on his appearance in the MYP MOTU cartoon.

ICE ARMOR HE-MAN & FIRE ARMOR SKELETOR



With ice spear, ice battle axe, sling shield with ice blade, Fire Havoc Staff, twin fire blades, and alternate 200x Skeletor head, these figures are based on releases in the 200x Mattel MOTU toyline.

KING TAMUSK



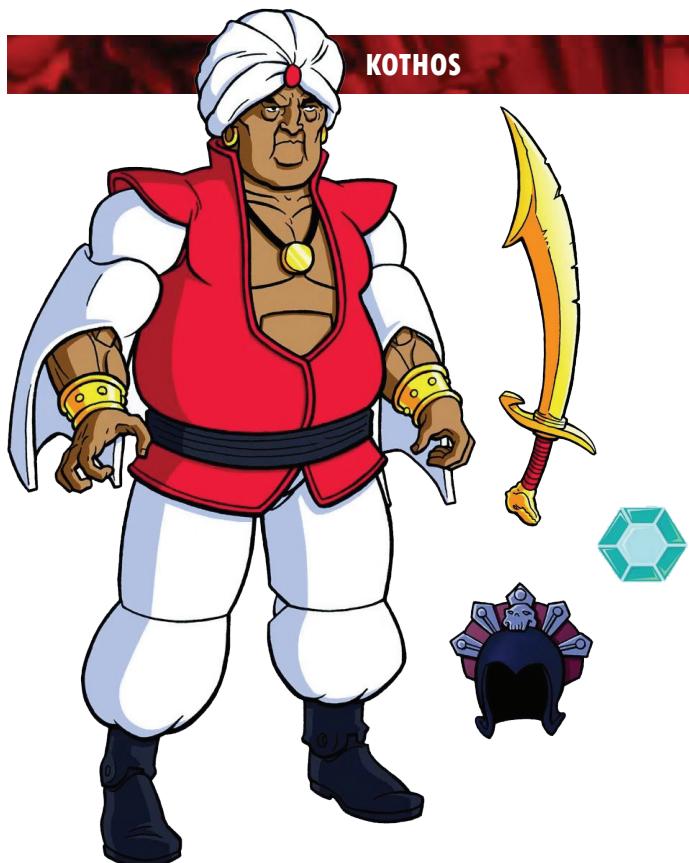
A character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon, King Tamusk is pictured here with a magic war club accessory.

KOL DARR



With battle axe, sword, ancient shield, freeze field, and positroid, Kol Darr was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon.

KOTHOS



With scimitar, magic jewel, and Evil-Lyn's helmet, Kothos was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon.

LIZORR



With laser gun, climate control pack, and alternate helmeted head, Lizorr was a character from the 1990 "He-Man" toyline.

MALLEK



MASTER SEBRIAN



With green Lokus, magic blast, and magic carpet with stand, Mallek was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon.

Master Sebrian, with staff and Gleep, was a character from the 1990 New Adventures of He-Man cartoon series.

MASKS OF POWER DEMONS



With two Orcs, Sword of the Ancients, and quartz stone, the Masks of Power Demons were characters from the MOTU mini-comic "Masks of Power."



With ancient book of spells, Reptile Men laser gun, wolf statue, and Ancient Mirror of Avathar, Melaktha was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon.

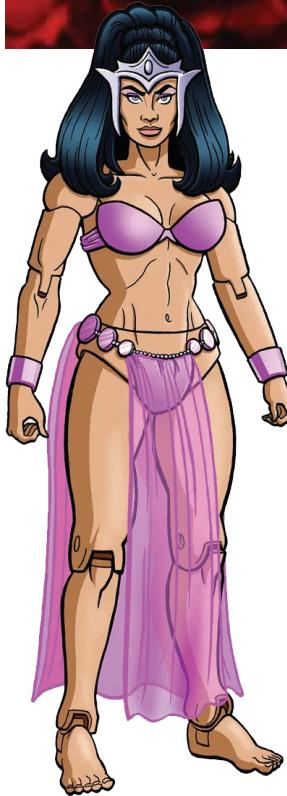
Melog, a character from the Filmation POP cartoon, is shown here with a purple magic blast effect, Filmation Sword of Protection, Styrax, and skull bird stand.



A character from the DC Masters of the Universe comics, Mendor is shown with alternate "healing" hands, the Eye of Chronos, the Eye of Chaos, and the Sword of Horokoth.

With lightning bolt horn attachments, battle axe, and electric arm wraps, Minox was a character from the Italian Mattel Magic Boy Magazine.

MISTRESS



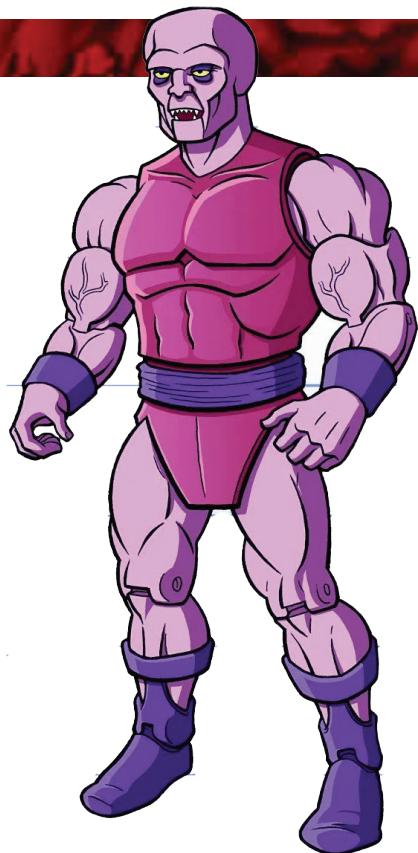
With the Medallion of Serpos, Snake Men Axe, Snake Dagger, and alternate Snake Men heads, the Mistress was a character from the Mattel mini-comic "King of the Snake Men."

MONTEEG & BLACKBEARD



Monteeeg and Blackbeard, characters from the Filmation MOTU cartoon, are shown with drinking glass, cutlass sword, and space pirate shield.

COUNT MARZO & CHIMERA



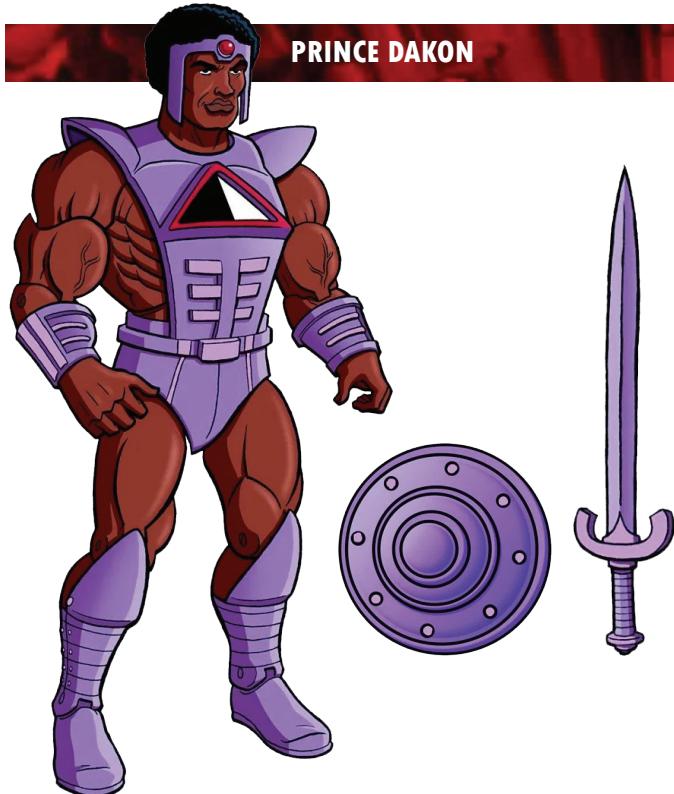
Count Marzo and Chimera, characters from the Filmation MOTU cartoon, are pictured with the Memory Gun, Wolfbat (with stand), and the Eternia Flower (Black Orchid).

NEGATOR



Pictured with two energy blasts, the Sun Stone and stand, and two Nerbs, Negator was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon.

PRINCE DAKON



A character from the Masters of the Universe mini-comic "The Secret Liquid of Life," Prince Dakon is pictured with sword and shield.

QUEEN ANDREENO



Shown here with Ambrosia, a Viridas Honeyberry, and removable helmet, Queen Andreeno was a character from the MYP MOTU cartoon series.

QUEEN ZAL & BRUAR

FACET



Characters from the Masters of the Universe Brazil Editora Abril, Queen Zal and Bruar are shown with crystal broadsword, crystal club, and crystal short sword.

A character from the Filmation POP cartoon, Facet was proposed as a pack-in figure with Granita.

SCROLLOS

RAVEN



A character from the Masters of the Universe UK comics, Scrollos is pictured with a portable view screen, robot sentry controller, and the Sword of Scrollos.



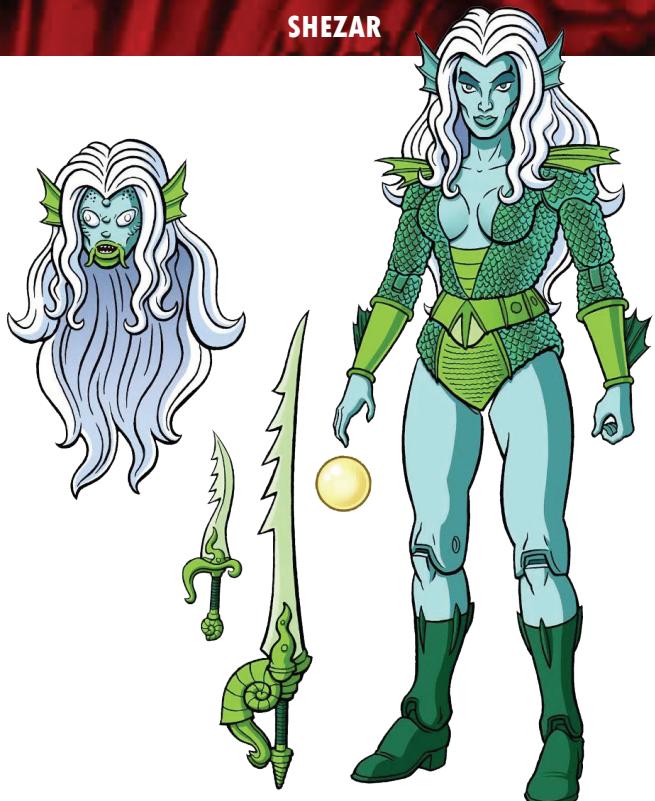
With snap-on tekko kagi, Raven (transformed) with skull stand, and an Energy Beast, Raven was a character from the Filmation MOTU cartoon.

SHARELLA



Sharella, a figure based on an unnamed character appearing on the box art for the vintage Megator figure, is shown here with quiver, arrows, sword, and bow.

SHEZAR



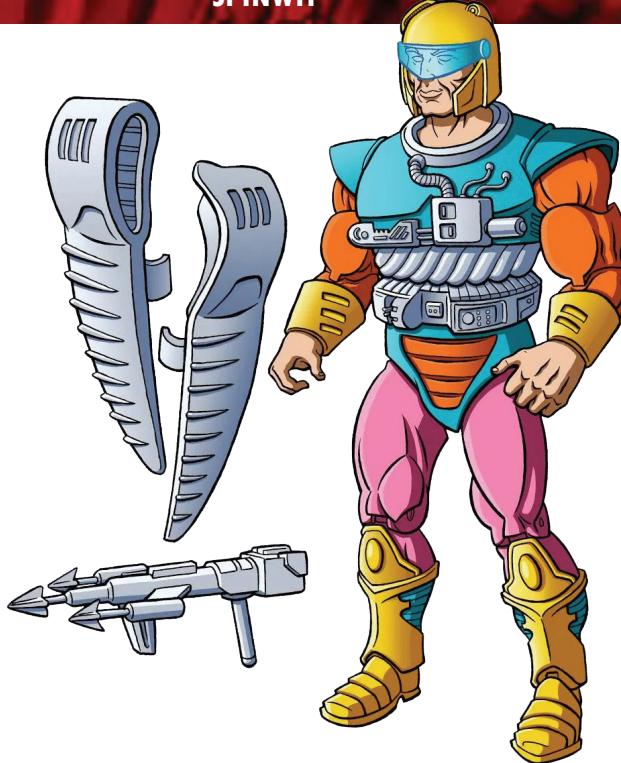
With “primitive form” head, dagger, sword, and polarizer, Shezar was a character from the Masters of the Universe Brazil Editora Abril.

OLLO & ZILORA



Characters from the Filmation MOTU cartoon, Ollo and Zilora are shown with a Snake Clan pole axe, Snake Clan Dagger, and Ape Clan War Club.

SPINWIT



With jet wings and harpoon gun, Spinwit was a character from the 1990 “He-Man” toyline.

SULTRA



With wand, dagger, robot raven (with stand), rocket broom, and glow-in-the-dark lantern, Sultra is a figure based on an unreleased concept character in the vintage MOTU toyline.

DINOSORB



Dinosorb was a character from the vintage MOTU toyline.

GRR



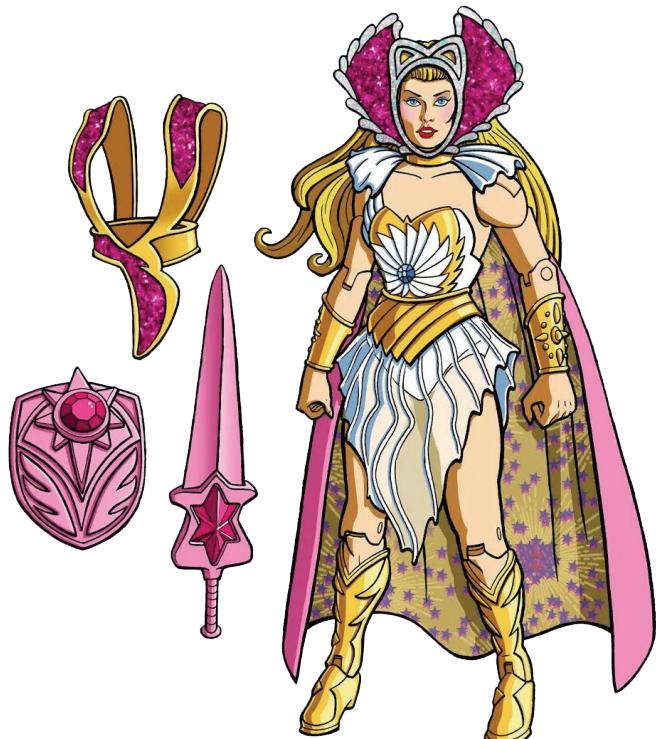
Grr, a character from the 1990 New Adventures of He-Man cartoon, was proposed as a pack-in figure with Crita.

TUG-O-WAR



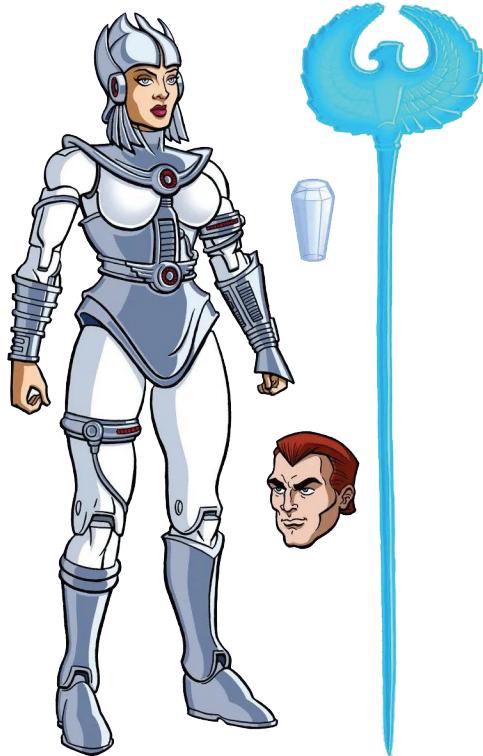
With war club, rope, and alternate "war paint" head, Tug O War was a character from the MOTU mini-comic "Skeletor's Dragon."

STARBURST SHE-RA



With Starburst armor, mask, shield, sword, and cape, Starburst She-Ra was a figure in the vintage Mattel POP toyline.

SORCERESS



TWIGGETS



With Trifusium Crystal, alternate Hydron head, and staff, this version of the Sorceress was from the He-Man mini-comic "The New Adventure."

Key characters from the Filmation POP cartoon, the Twiggets Sprocker, Sprag, and Spritina are pictured with an oogleberry basket, Spritina's bowl of Spoo, Sprocker's sled, and Sprag's crossbow.

BATTLE FOR CASTLE GRAYSKULL WEAPONS PAK



Contents: Snake Armor He-Man's shield • Red Catra Sword • Blue Magic Blast • Kobra Khan Snake Staff • Three Tomes • Blue Webstor Gun • Black Horde Belt • Skeletor Shield • Netossa's Mask • Starla, Tallstar, and Jewelstar Shields • Thunder Punch He-Man Armor • Tytus' Axe • Faker Shield, Armor, Axe and Sword in Magenta • Buzz-Off's Lance • Teela's Shield • Odiphus with Club